

Message Text

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AIDAC

E. O.: 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: AID PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS FOR TNP

REF: (A) BANGKOK 9558; (B) BANGKOK 9559

FROM HANNAH TO CHARGE AND REY HILL

1. DURING DISCUSSIONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING FY 74 HEARINGS, AID WAS STRONGLY QUESTIONED ON PROVISION THROUGH PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS OF MILITARY- TYPE WEAPONS NOT CONSIDERED CUSTOMARY FOR POLICE ORGANIZATIONS CARRYING OUT NORMAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. WHILE I RECOGNIZE THE PARAMILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF CERTAIN TNP ELEMENTS IN COUNTER- INSURGENCY MISSIONS, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE MUST RESTRICT AID WEAPON AND AMMUNITION PROCUREMENT TO THE TNP HENCEFORWARD TO CUSTOMARY POLICE WEAPONS SUCH AS SIDE ARMS, SHOTGUNS, CARBINES AND NON- TOXIC TEAR GAS.

2. THE NEW RESTRICTION IS BEING ESTABLISHED AS WORLD- WIDE POLICY AND MUST GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. IT WILL ALSO APPLY TO MILITARY TYPE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION UNDER PIO/

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C' S BUT NOT YET PROCURED. THE NEW POLICY WOULD ALSO
PRECLUDE PROCUREMENT OF THE ASSAULT RIFLE AMMUNITION REQUES-
TED IN REFS (A) AND (B).

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THAI POLICE UNITS ENGAGED IN COUNTER-
INSURGENCY OPERATIONS MUST HAVE ADEQUATE ARMAMENT AND TRAIN-
ING IF THEY ARE TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PRO-
TECT THE PEOPLE, TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND TO UNDERTAKE
EFFECTIVE OFFENSIVE ACTIONS. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT THE
MISSION, IN EXPLAINING OUR POSITION TO THE RTG, CAN
ENCOURAGE THEM TO MEET TNPD REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY- TYPE
WEAPONRY FROM THEIR OWN RESOURCES. AID WILL UNDERTAKE TO
RE- PROGRAM FUNDS EQUIVALENT TO THE ABOVE PIO/ C FUNDS, IN
THAI PROGRAM . ROGERS

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